

dailyindisb@gmail.com Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Islamabad

Vol. XIV No. 137 Reg. mails-B / ID-445 Wednesday June 12, 2024, Zil Hajj 05, 1445 A.H. Ph; 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12

Economic Survey of Pakistan 2023-24

Significant progress made in achieving macroeconomic stability: Finance Minister

Country's Per capita income increase by US\$129 to US\$1680 in FY 2024; Investment to GDP ratio stands at 13.14 percent in FY2024; Agriculture sector posts 6.25% growth in FY 2023-24: Economic Survey; NHA portfolio comprises 123 projects with Rs 156.50 bln allocation: Economic Survey; Manufacturing, Mining sectors contribute 13.6% to GDP in FY 2024; Pakistan, CoD narrowing down to US \$ 0.5 billion during July-March FY 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): depreciation, and a shrink- fiscal year commenced un-Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Tuesday said that despite challenges, the country had made significant progress in achieving macroeconomic stability, with a remarkable 30 percent growth in revenue collection, a reduced current account deficit, reduction in inflation and a stable currency.

Addressing a press conference at the launching ceremony of Economic Survey of Pakistan 2023-24, the minister said, this situation indicated a remarkable turnaround from a precarious economic situation, characterized by a 0.2% GDP contraction, 29% rupee

ing foreign exchange reserves, which had declined of import cover.

the agriculture sector, which had been boosted by bumper crops.

He said, the agriculture and the dairy and livestock sector were expected to remain a key there would have been disdriver of growth in the years to come.

Muhammad Aurangzeb said the economic journey fruitful for the country's of Pakistan in the current economy.

Prime Minister Shehbaz to just two weeks' worth Sharif before caretaker administration, who took the He said, despite chal- bold step of approaching lenges in the large-scale the International Mon-manufacturing (LSM) sec-etary Fund (IMF) and future programme with tor due to interest rates singing of 9-month and energy issues, the Standby Agreement, country's GDP growth which was very imporhad found a silver-lining in tant part of the progress the country had been wit-

nessing today. He said had it not been signed, the situation would have been very different and cussions on economic figures in a very different context. Finance Minister He said the decision of going to IMF had proven

He was of the view government had pledged to der the leadership of that successful conclusion of the IMF's Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) had also restored the confidence in Pakistan's the Fund, the minister said Pakistan and IMF have had a productive and constructive dialogue dur-

> By Arrangement (SBA) demonstrated Pakistan's commitment to discipline, which had been acknowledged by the IMF. He said, the dialogue

focused on the constructive

nature of Pakistan's re-

ing the fund's recent visit.

He said, the successful

conclusion of the Stand-

He said the programme with IMF, was for the benefit of Pakistan to improve its economy. "This is Pakistan's programme, which was being aided, supported, and funded by the

The key areas of focus include enhancing tax revenues, improving the complex energy equation, and implementing power sector privatization of stateowned enterprises (SOEs).

He said, the discussion with IMF were progressing positively, with both parties committed to working together to achieve Pakistan's form agenda, which the economic goals.



Aurangzeb presenting a copy of Economic Survey of Pakistan 2023-2024 to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif prior to its official launch.

China visit successful as high



called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives, Prof Ahsan Iqbal, is also present on the occasion

Every challenge can be countered with unity: **Interior Minister**

CHARSADDA (APP): Federal Interior Minister, Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi on Tuesday said that Pakistan had been created after a lot of sacrifices and we all are ready to give any sacrifice for the protection and

defense of our motherland. He said Frontier Constabulary (FC) was an important force of Pakistan that was placed in all provinces including Islamabad for security and maintenance of law and order besides protection of VIPs, important projects and government installations.

The Interior Minister was addressing as chief guest at FC Shuhada Parade 2024 held at FC Training Centre Shabqadar here. The passed out recruits presented solute to the Interior Minister.

The Minister also inspected the parade. The FC band also exhibited an im-

pressive performance, which was applauded by the minister and the partici-

The Interior Minister highly commended the quick response of FC troops for support of law enforcement agencies for maintenance of law and order and security whenever it was called for help across the country

He said that every war and battle can be won through unity. "We all are Pakistani and ready to give every sacrifice for its defence and protection" he said. He said that FC would continue to work for the

Mohsin Naqvi paid glowing tributes to all martyrs of Frontier Constabulary and announced to increase FC martyrs package from Rs three million to Rs10 million.

Budget for fiscal year 2024-25 to be presented today

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal government budget for the fiscal year 2024-25 will be presented in National Assembly (NA) today on Wednesday.

NA session will take olace under Speaker NA Ayyaz Sadiq at 4 p.m. Finance minister

Aurangzeb will present federal budget. As per government sources federal budget of

olume of about Rs 18000 pillion will be presented The salaries of governnent employees are likely to be increased by 10 to 15 percent. The target of tax

recoveries is likely to be stability, progress and prosfixed 12.9 trillion rupees. Rs perity of Pakistan. 800 billion are likely to be allocated for subsidies in energy sector.

Two killed in explosion

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): At least two people were killed in an explosion at a scrap shop here, a rescuer said.

A victim identified as Arshad, 40, son of Muhammad Aslam succumbed to injuries on the

The other injured named Muhammad Latif, 30, son of Allah Diwaya was shifted to a nearby hospital where he breathed his last. Both of the dead bodies were shifted to a hospital.

Further investigation was underway to figure out the cause of the incident, it was said

conditional

supplies.

11 terrorists killed in

Lakki Marwat operation

cluding

April.

President, PM discuss public relief in upcoming annual budget

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday met with President Asif Ali Zardari where they discussed the country's overall economic situation with a particular focus on extending relief to the people in the upcoming annual budget 2024-25.

 $Federal\ Minister\ \bar{for}\ Planning\ and\ Special\ Initiatives$ Professor Ahsan Iqbal also attended the meeting, accordng to a President House press release.

President Zardari emphasised that the interests of the low-income and middle class should be protected in the annual budget. He also assured the prime minister of his support for the national development and achievement of fiscal targets.

Prime Minister Shehbaz and President Zardari also deliberated on the development projects to be proposed in the next budget. The prime minister apprised the president of his recent five-day visit to China

Dar calls for an embargo on military supplies to Israel, deployment of impartial int'l force

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Tuesday called upon for an embargo on all the military supplies and sales to Israel, besides proposing to consider the deployment of an impartial international force for the protection of Palestinian civilians in Gaza and the

West Bank. In a statement at the High-Level Conference on Urgent Humanitarian Response for Gaza, in Amman, Jordan, the deputy prime minister urged that they must ensure the immediate withdrawal of Israeli occupation forces from Gaza in accordance with resolution 2735

At this critical juncture, he said they must undertake concrete steps to effectively redress the

RAWALPINDI (APP): The

security forces on Tuesday

killed 11 terrorists during an

intelligence-based opera-

tion (IBO) in Lakki Marwat

District to bring the perpetrators of IED blast to jus-

According to the Inter Services Public Relations

(ISPR) news release, the

operation was carried out

to bring the perpetrators of

the recent improvised ex-

plosive device (IED) explo-

sion that claimed the lives

of seven brave soldiers in-

Spelling out the need of urgent steps, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that they must ensure the ceasefire called for by the UN Security Council was complete, durable and un-

It must also halt the violence in the West Bank; he said, adding that it should step up the provision of humanitarian assistance to the beleaguered Palestinians in Gaza and meet their needs for food, medicines, energy and other essential

The deputy prime minister stressed to enlarge their support for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and respond to the flash appeal issued by the UN in

Muhammad Faraz Ilyas

and Subedar Major

Muhammad Nazir, to jus-

on the night between June 10 and 11, 2024, launched

the intelligence based op-

eration in the Lakki Marwat

District, and effectively en-

gaged the terrorists' location.

As a result, 11 terrorists were

successfully neutralized &

sent to hell while multiple

terrorist hideouts were also

busted," the ISPR said.

The security forces,

IHC allows electronic media to report court proceedings as per

SC guidelines ISLAMABAD (APP):The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday al-lowed the electronic media to report court proceedings in line with the guidelines of Supreme Court.

IHC Chief Justice

Amir Farooq Malik heard the petitions of Islamabad High Court Iournalists Association Press Association of Su preme Court and PFUI against the notification issued by PEMRA imposing a ban on court reporting.

High Court Bar President Ali Azad and Adil Aziz Qazi ap-peared before the court on behalf of the petitioners

Urging the court to adjourn hearing without proceedings, the counsel of PEMRA (Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority) said that the senior lawyer of the case was busy in the Supreme Court.

The court, however, observed that the electronic media could report proceedings as per the SC guidelines.

Subsequently, the court accepted the plea of PEMRA and adjourned the hearing till the first week of July.

powered Chinese delegation to visit Pakistan soon: PM ISLAMABAD (APP): leadership and business

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that his recent five-day visit to China from June 4-8 remained successful as a high-powered Chinese delegation would visit Pakistan soon.

The prime minister, chairing the meeting of the federal cabinet, told the members that the collective efforts by his team including the federal ministers and federal secretaries came to fruition and that the visit was a great opportunity to strengthen visit. the Pakistan-China bilateral relations.

community, the visit concluded with a "positive note."
"I can say unequivo-

cally that the visit ended with a positive note. During the conversation with the Chinese ambassador at the banquet hosted by the Communist Party Secretary during my visit to Shanxi province, I got a deep feeling that the visit reminded very successful," Prime Minister Shehbaz remarked while apprising the cabinet members of his

thanked all of his cabinet stan Digital Authority He said that despite the security issue high-lighted during the engagements with the Chinese He said that despite the security issue high-lighted during the engagements with the Chinese He said that despite the security issue high-lighted Dar, Ahsan Iqbal, Esides ensuring digitization of national economy and paperless governance.

Khawaja, and relevant federal secretaries for their collective efforts which led to the success of the

He expressed confidence that the collective efforts would lead to the swift and successful execution of the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Meanwhile the federal cabinet on Tuesday principally approved the Digital Nation Pakistan Act 2024 providing to establish the National Digital The prime minister Commission and Paki-



JORDAN: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar meets with UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres

Present government made several achievements on foreign policy front: Tarar ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Infor-

mation, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Tuesday that the present government after coming to power had taken initiatives which resulted in many achievements on foreign policy front.

Delivering his speech on the occasion of launching ceremony of the report on national security and foreign policy, he said that foreign policy was top priority of the present dispensation.

"We are a responsible nuclear country and our importance in the world cannot be denied," he said, adding Pakistan believed in

The minister said Pakistan was recently elected a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council with 182 votes which was a demonstration of its successful

foreign policy. 'We have trade relations with Iran, and the late Iranian President's visit to Pakistan was also successful", he maintained. He said earlier a high-level Saudi delegation also visited Pakistan tapping investment poten-

Tarar said that 68 per cent of Pakistan's population comprised youth and focus on technical training was topmost priority of the government.

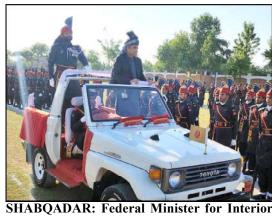
SC orders to close all restaurants including Monal in Margalla Hills

ISLAMABAD (APP): nated. The court declared The Supreme Court on that the commercial activi-Tuesday ordered closure of all restaurants, including Monal, running in the area of Margalla Hills National Park (MHNP).

A three-member bench of the apex court, headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, in its orders in the petitions filed by Monal Restaurant and the Wildlife Department, directed the authorities to close down all the restaurants within the period of three months as their leases stood termities were not allowed in the area of National Park to protect the natural envi-It further said that the

restaurants would have priority if the leases were granted outside the National Park area.

The court observed that all unnecessary notices served to the restaurants running in other areas stood terminated as in the instant case it was focusing only to



Mohsin Naqvi witnessing the FC Shuhada Parade at FC Training Center.

Imran Khan gives green signal for talks with govt: Barrister Gohar

RAWALPINDI (INP): Pa- ciliation kistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar said Tuesday party's founder Imran Khan has to me'," said the PTI chairgiven a green signal for talks with the government. "We told the PTI

founder that dialogue is necessary, as the distance is widening. He agreed with us [on this]," said Gohar, when speaking with journalists outside the Adiala According to Gohar,

Khan wants the avenues of dialogue to be opened. He told journalists that Khan is ready to forgive what has happened to him for recontion option.

"PTI founder has said many times that 'I am ready to forgive what happened

gotiations will take place at the behest of the Supreme Court's advice, Barrister Gohar said: "The option given by the SC is also under consideration."

However, emphasised that it is PTI's "own decision" to negotiate. "PTI founder did not write any letter to the SC for negotiation. PTI will also respond to its negotia-



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Housing Riaz Hussain Pirzada, Minister Qaisar Ahmed Sheikh, Director General ISPR Lt. General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry and Ambassador of Portugal Fredrico Silva cutting cake to celebrate the National Day of Portugal.

Daily Aoice of Masse. Independent

Interest rate cut

Citing a better-than-anticipated decline in May's inflation figures, the State Bank ceded to rate cut demands on Monday, by slashing its policy rate by 150bps to 20.5pc, after having held it steady at a record 22pc for nearly a year.

The bank also mentioned the uptick in economic activity, and improvements in the external sector outlook and international reserves, resulting from a lower current account deficit, as factors leading to its decision. The bank had been resisting mounting pressure to start reversing monetary tightening ever since inflation began slowing in Janu-

Critics of the bank's restrictive policy stance insisted that higher rates could not go on forever without damaging the economy. Even the finance minister repeatedly expressed hopes for rate cuts in "line with inflation". The big drop in May's inflation to 11.8pc, however, was widely seen as evidence justifying the bank's shift to a slightly less restrictive stance, amid the growing clamour for respite from crushingly high lending rates.

Recent market expectations regarding the size of the rate cut have swung between 100bps and 200bps, but the majority of market polls showed that most analysts did not anticipate a reduction of more than 100bps. That the SBP decision comes just ahead of the announcement of the budget, and in the midst of negotiations between the government and the IMF for another bailout package, it underscores the bank's confidence that economic stability is gaining traction and that concluding a new agreement with the Fund is just a matter of time. The monetary policy decision is based on the bank's understanding that inflation out-turns last month were better than expected, and that underlying inflation pressures are receding amid appropriate fiscal and monetary policies.

However, the bank also mentioned that the upcoming budget and uncertainty regarding future energy price adjustments pose an upside risk to the near-term inflation outlook. But it is hopeful that the impact of the earlier monetary tightening will keep new inflationary pressures in check. Regarding the outlook, the bank is clear that room for further interest rate cuts will depend on budget assessments and IMF measures.

For now, the bank is said to have modelled the budget and IMF measures according to known factors. However, the actual measures may cause a deviation in the inflation outlook.

Although the rate cut signifies the taming of inflation for the moment, it is mostly symbolic since borrowing costs are likely to remain high as the SBP chases its medium-term target of 5-7pc inflation by September 2025. The rate cut will substantially accrue debt payment savings to the government, bring down financial costs of businesses and perhaps provide a boost to the stock market and real estate However, it is unlikely to unlock investments in the real sectors.

No child's play

people, particularly those with special

needs, face many barri-

children and young

people do not have time

to play; one in five lack

safe spaces to play; and

one in five have no one

quent natural disasters,

such as Pakistan's

floods in recent years,

have left millions of chil-

dren at risk and without

any opportunities to

learn and play. Which is

why it is more important

more organised and ro-

bust calls for global and

that children get a con-

ducive environment to

play in and learn, regard-

less of their race, social

stress that for our gov-

policymakers, ensuring

equal access to play op-

portunities for all chil-

dren, is no child's play.

It should be considered

must not be taken for

granted as it has been

and National Education

Policy do not take into

account the founda-

tional significance of

school day when com-

in South Asia.

Pakistan's National

in our country.

It is important to

class, etc.

ernments

Ali Khayam

UN General Assembly declared that the International Day of Play dren and other young would be observed annually on June 11. This announcement has come after a long advo- ers to play. One in three cacy campaign led by Unicef, global civil society, and organisations

such as Right To Play. So, today the world is celebrating its inaugu- to play with. Global conral Day of Play with the flicts, such as in Gaza object of encouraging and Ukraine, and fremore conscious efforts to ensure that children across the world can exercise their right to play. For some, it may seem frivolous for the international body to declare a day dedicated to celebrating play. However, than ever before for as natural and accessible as it may seem, children, globally, are local action to ensure finding it difficult to have access to a healthy, joyful playtime.

Data from global research across 36 countries by the Lego Group reveals that 73 per cent of children believe that adults don't take play, and its importance to learning, seriously. Research conducted by the Child and Youth Advisory Board, an inter- serious business and national platform, indicates that over 20pc of children in Asia are of the view that they are not allowed to play; the Curriculum Framework figure is less than 10pc for Europe and America. Additionally, 38pc of children in regions impacted by natural disasters express concerns about the lack of safe

play spaces. Play is a biological and cognitive necessity and is absolutely essential for children's holistic development. Play is instinctive; it comes naturally to every child, and adult. It is vital to build 21st-century skills among children, such as problem-solving, cre- vide adequate play- the physical and mental ative thinking, collaboration and resilience

Play is also a great the urban areas, lack - Courtesy Dawn

equaliser, if only access the space or resources to it is made equitable. to offer recreational ac-In March this year, the This, unfortunately, tivities to students. seems like a distant A survey condream at present. Childucted

Children's Global Network Pakistan highlights that in many public schools, playtime is often neglected due to the overemphasis on academic performance. Our policymakers focusing on education must understand the importance of play in overcoming learning losses. It is time to call upon parents, teachers, school managements, local and national governments, the UN and civil society, as well as businesses, to take action in their respective domains so that children's right to play can be ensured at every level. The issue of ac-

cess becomes more horrifying when we talk about girls' right to play and sports. Misplaced ideas regarding menstruation and puberty, along with several other cultural barriers, limit their participation in play even within the confines of their homes. This has resulted in the drastically low participation of girls in play and sport; millions of girls reach adulthood without experiencing the simple joy of playing and understanding the full potential of

their minds and bodies. There is a dire need for religious leaders and play. Pakistani children scholars to break these and youth spend the barriers by influencing least amount of time and educating society to playing during the open up space for millions of girls to participared to other countries pate in play activities.

South Asia. As a society, we According to edu-need to bring back board cation statistics by the games in family gather-Academy of Educa- ings to help revive the tional Planning and culture of play in our Management, only a lives. This limited number of strengthen social conschools in Pakistan pro- nections, and improve ground facilities. Many health and well-being of schools, particularly in children as well as adults.

Global reversal

Dr Niaz Murtaza

Thirty years of history since Francis Fukuyama pronounced the end of history, given the appare elections in 2008 and mocracy in retreat even has had two controverin the West. The sial polls and autocracy Economist's Democracy Index score has fallen since 2000, globally, including in the West. It now even calls the US, the oldest one, a flawed democracy. It is not just autocracy, but also populism and religious extremism that undermine liberal tenets. The 15 largest states by population, each numbering over 100 million people and together accounting for nearly twothirds of the global population, show a sharp reversal towards democratic gains. India has seen au-

tocracy rising, especially against the minori-Modi since 2014. It's too early to see his recent caretaker system. electoral setback as a permanent reversal. tocracy has become a the term limit for presidents and cemented his philosophy into the state for the Economist. constitution, while cracking down against successful rule by the minorities. The US, too, fell prey to a xenophounder Donald Trump who may yet win a second term, in which he promises to be more autocratic. Staunch US support for Israel's brutal genocide have undercut its democratic claims.

We next have five autocracy with the brustates in post-army transitions. After Suharto's and steady tions democratisation. But the 2024 elections were won

serious past abuses, thus raising fears he will rule autocratically. Pakistan moved towards democracy with two free under hybrid regimes led by the populist Imran Khan and then PML-N.

regular elections since including the 2023 one, were seriously flawed, The Economist calls Nigeria a hybrid regime with illiberal governance. Brazil, too, has past to hold regular elections but saw five years of rule by the xenophobic Jair Bolsonaro who as lost to Luiz Inacio Lula is too early to write off populist autocracy. a one-party autocracy ties, under Narendra with its third rigged polls after it ended its neutral

> Russia has become Putin who may rule for sharp autocratic shift though it is still a hybrid Five years of relatively leftist (seen by some as feminist Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo augur pia made promising democratic moves under Abiy Ahmed, which won him a Nobel Prize. Bu

tal war in Tigray. Japan has kept its fall in 1997, Indonesia bearings and escaped has had regular elec- even populism. The Philippines has held regular Only such an ideology elections since the fall of can reverse the global Ferdinand Marcos but reversal of democracy by Prabowo Subianto, an had a populist autoc- and attract the masses. ex-army man accused of racy under Rodrigo -- Courtesy Dawn

since then, it has seen

Duterte, who has now been replaced Marcos's son as president and his own daughter as vice president. Egypt is back to a ent triumph of Western 2013 after a decade of military-backed autocdemocracy, show de- army rule, but since then racy after a brief period of elections won by the Muslim Brotherhood. Finally, Congo, after Mobutu Sese Seko's fall, saw one to two free Nigeria has had elections but has since seen a series of rigged 1999, but many of them, elections and autocratic

Thus, 13 of the 15 states have seen de--mocratic reversals, about half have seen the rise of populist politics, broken from its military and about a quarter the rise of religious extremist politics. The trend affects developed as well underdeveloped ruled autocratically. He states, Western and non-Western ones, states of autocracy after some da Silva last year. But it multiple faiths, and the three largest regions — Asia, Africa and the Bangladesh has become Americas. The widespread scope suggests that global factors, too, are feeding the trend be-

yond national ones. A key factor has a personal fiefdom for been the failure to China's one-party au- the populist Vladimir democratise capitalism and the increasing inpersonalised populist another decade. Mexico equality it has given. Afone under Xi Jinping bucks the trend in at ter triumphing against since 2013. Xi has nixed least not showing a communism, capitalism vanquished the gains of even welfare democratic states for the lower classes. A second factor has been the failure to institutionalise democa bit populist) Andrés racy globally as the inbic populist autocracy Manuel López Obrador ternally democratic West and the recent win of the maintains brutal autocracy outside its borders. Thirdly, increased uncerwell for Mexico. Ethio- tainty spawned by globalisation and new technology has also made it easier for autocrats to stoke fear and consolidate power.

Against all this is the absence of a new global progressive ideology to address current global challenges.

Commerce News

Govt to review entire power sector completely in next 2-3 years: Senate told

Minister for Power Division Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari on Tuesday informed the Senate that the government would revive the entire power sector completely in next two to three years.

Responding to a Calling Attention notice raised by Saifullah Abro about expected installation of three power plants (2100 MW), the minister said that the power sector was very complicated and it had been divided into

problems, he added.

He said despite despatched due to transmission issue. No investment was made in Matiari to Rehim Yar Khan transmission project in last three sub-sectors including be initiated due to some under heads of salary and generation, transmission technical issues like other perks and privileges.

ISLAMABAD (APP): and distribution. Every feasibility, insurance, tariff sub-sector has its own determination and financial closure, he said. He said if these projects achieved availability of electricity in financial closures now, it the system, it could not be would take 6-7 years to start power generation. All these three projects were iustified and would help provide relief in term of foreign exchange component, 10 years, he added. he added. Regarding, Regarding the three power plants (2100 MW), the Lakhra Power Plant, the he added. Regarding, GENCO-I, GENCO-II and minister said that the minister said these power projects were part of plants were not in operation CPEC-2015 Framework. and their employees were and their employees were The said projects could not drawing over Rs 7.5 billion

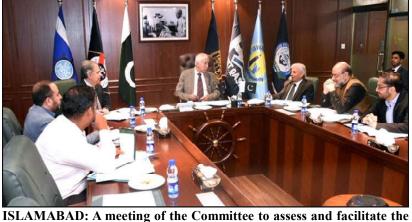
Gold rates increase by Rs.1,900

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of per tola of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.1,900 and was sold at Rs.241,300 on Tuesday against its sale at Rs Rs.239,400 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increase by Rs 1,629 to Rs.206,876 from Rs.205,247 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs.189,639 from Rs.188,143, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

Per tola and ten gram silver remained stagnant at Rs.2,750 and Rs.2,357.68 respectively. The price of gold in the international market increased by \$15 to \$2,307 from \$2,292, the Association reported.

RCB offers a 10% discount on tax deposit in June

RAWALPINDI (APP) Rawalpindi Cantonment Board announced a 10% tax rebate. Tax bills including property and other taxes have been distributed among the payers by the RCB officials. According to the details, the 10% discount on the payment of T-tax and other taxes can be availed by depositing the taxes by 30th June 2024.



reconstitution of Board of Korangi Fisheries Harbour Authority (KoFHA) held under the Chairmanship of Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh. Federal Minister for Industries & Production Rana Tanveer Hussain also present as member of the committee.

FWCCI to establish women export display center in collaboration with FPCCI

Independent Report LAHORE: Faisalabad Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FWCCI) will establish a Women Export Display Centre in collaboration with the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) at Faisalabad to facilitate 'Access to Market' for women products. These products particularly handmade articles have very well in demand in traditional and non-traditional markets

FWCCI President and markets.

Chairperson of FPCCI Standing Committee on Think Tank, Mrs. Rubina Amjad stated this while addressing participants in a symposium on 'Digital Transformation of Women Businesses in Pakistan organized by Think Tank Committee in collaboration with FPCCI here on

Tuesday. She said that Pakistan export volume can go further high if we are able to facilitate and fetch best price for women particularly hand made products in international

Shipping activity at **Port Qasim** KARACHI

Shipping activity was report at the port where six ships, Xpress Antila, Lotus-A, MSC Lisbon, Block Island, Asia Liberty and Al-Jassasiya carrying Container, Steel Coil, Palm oil and LNG, berthed at Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal-1, Liquid Terminal and Elengy Terminal respectively on

SBP injects

over Rs 329b

into market

KARACHI (APP): The

State Bank of Pakistan

(SBP) on Tuesday injected

market through Reverse

Repo Purchase and Shariah

Compliant Mudarabah

based Open Market

Open Market Operation

through Reverse Repo

Purchase (Injection) for a

3-day tenor and received 13

quotes amounting to Rs

239.7 billion offered at the

rate of return ranging between 20.55 to 20.62

percent. The SBP accepted

all the 13 quotes at 20.55

The SBP conducted

Operation (OMO).

Monday. Meanwhile two more ships, MSC Positano and DA Xin with Container and Wind Power also arrived at outer-anchorage of the Port Oasim on same day.

Sindh govt after federal govt's consensus: Rana SLAMABAD (APP): with Chief Minister Sindh

PSM to be revived by

Minister for Industries and Production, Rana Tanveer revive the PSM. Hussain on Tuesday apprised the Upper House that Sindh government was going to take over the Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM) for reviving the stateowned enterprise after consensus with the federal government.

The minister was responding to the query of Senator Mohsin Aziz of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) pertaining to losses of PSM at present and the number of individuals employed. Rana Tanveer said that

caretaker government had

for working out a plan to He said that Sindh

government was demanding 200 acres of more land other than the 550 acres of covered area of the existing plant of PSM. Moreover, he said the

federal government had also approved 700 acres of the total 19,000 acres land of the PSM to use it for industrial purposes and Sindh Cabinet had also approved it's rules for using the land. The Minister said that PSM had around 5,000 employees whereas the Mill was closed that remained dysfunctional formed a committee under during the previous



FAISALABAD: President Chamber of Commerce in PHA Faisalabad Dr. Khurram Tariq is holding the press conference.

Oil demand declines in nine months of FY 2023-24

ISLAMABAD (APP): The demand for oil declined to 12.3 million tonnes July-March during Financial Year 2023-24, down from 13.3 million tonnes during the same period last year.

According to the

Economic Survey 2023-24 unveiled by Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, the declining trend may be attributed to a decrease in demand for High-Speed Diesel (HSD), Motor Spirit (MS), and Furnace Oil (FO), which together

comprise more than 95 percent of the total demand

The total demand for petroleum products remained at 17.5 million tonnes during FY 2023.

Furthermore, the transport and power sectors are major petroleum consumers, accounting for 77.3 percent and 10.7 percent of total demand, respectively

Overall, the total demand for petroleum products decreased by 7.23 percent during July-March FY 2024 compared to the same period last year

ISLAMABAD: Ms. Leslie Scanlon, High Commissioner of Canada to Pakistan, calls on the Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Mr. Ahad Khan Cheema.

Saudi Electricity Company unveils details of its major investments, projects for Haji

The Saudi Electricity Company (SEC) has issued a press release informing of its important projects and investments in Makkah, Madinah, and other holy sites for the 1445 AH Haji season, which aim to improve the electricity network and provide a stable and reliable power supply for pilgrims and residents, boost the quality of service and ensure the comfort of pilgrims during

One of the main distribution networks at smart stations to the fiberoptic network.

This project costs SAR200 million and involves extensive groundwork and concrete closures, covering distances of 335 km and 312 km, respectively. Over 2,400 stations

have been connected to the fiber-ontic network boosting the efficiency and sustainability of the electrical network in densely populated areas. and reducing emergency projects is automating the response times to fractions of a second

Agri minister says: Farmers to be provided tractors on subsidy under green tractor scheme subsidy, he added.

LAHORE Provincial Agriculture Minister Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani on Tuesday chaired a review meeting regarding the green tractor scheme by the chief minister of Punjab, at

Agriculture House. The minister said a green tractor scheme was being launched for farmers on the directives of the chief minister Punjab. Under the scheme, small, medium and large tractors would be provided to the farmers on

He said green tractor scheme would be a one year scheme. All the system till the delivery of tractors to the farmers would be mechanised, he added and clarified that if the mechanised system was not done properly, then all this scheme would be useless. The color of the tractor will be "green' and the Chief Minister Punjab Tractor Scheme will be written on it, he

DG RDA briefs

officers of 37th

PSMG course

RAWALPINDI (APP):

The participants of the

Management Governance

(PSMG) course for the

promotion of the officers

from BPS-17 to BPS-18

here on Tuesday visited

Rawalpindi Development

along with Additional DG,

Awais Munzoor Taran

briefed the course officers

on the administrative

affairs of the RDA. The

briefing was arranged

aimed to equip the officers

with insights that would

be beneficial in their

professional development.

During the visit, Additional DG RDA

provided an overview of RDA's inception and

ongoing projects, including

the Ring Road Project, Nullah Lai Expressway

project, and initiatives

such as the Business

Facilitation Center, Estate

Management Information

Development Plan of

Kinza Murtaza on

Regional

System,

According to RDA

Authority (RDA).

spokesperson, Director General (DG) RDA, Kinza Murtaza,

Public Sector

Governor regrets prolong delay in Arbab Niaz **Stadium reconstruction**

PESHAWAR Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday Pakhtunkhwa, he said, has a sentimental value for no cricket academy or us as late Benazir Bhutto international level cricket addressed her last public

gathering at this stadium. Talking with media at the under-construction stadium here, the Governor added that Arbab Niaz at historical Arbab Niaz completion in near future. Stadium also has a historical value for having the status of oldest cricket

ground in the province.

year the construction work Stadium was yet to be completed.

For the last 10 years,



GILGIT: Deputy Speaker Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly Sadia Danish called on Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan at CM

Governor Punjab honors Dubai-based Pak journalist Syed Mudassar Khushnood

LAHORE (APP): Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan presented the Best Journalist Award to Syed Mudassar Khushnood, a Pakistani prominent journalist based in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), at a prestigious ceremony organized by Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Gulf and the Middle East in Dubai.

On this occasion, PPP Gulf and Middle East President Mian Munir Hans praised Syed Mudassar Khushnood, emphasizing that he is recognized as the number one journalist in the United Arab Emirates, particularly in Dubai. His

brought immense pride to Pakistani journalists in the UAE. The award, presented personally by the Governor of Punjab, recognizes Syed Mudassar Khushnood's role as an important bridge between the UAE and Pakistan.

Sved Mudassaı Khushnoud has been honored with numerous awards in the past, cementing his reputation as the best journalist in the UAE, including the region.

Syed Mudassar Khushnood is the first Pakistani journalist in the UAE to receive a 10-year golden visa and the highest immigration award from the extraordinary services have UAE government.

Most of the cricket of the province and players in the national pretended to be a sport team were from Khyber promoting government but contrary to this there was said Arbab Niaz Stadium adding that sadly there was nothing on the ground to prove their tall claims.

The construction work at Arbab Niaz Governor Stadium started in 2017 regretted that despite but despite passage of passage of around eight around eight years there were no signs of its In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. the Governor added that there was no activity of First Class Cricket

Khokhar calls on CM, discuss development initiatives

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif met with Member National Assembly (MNA) Malik Afzal Khokhar here on Tuesday.

Important issues related to the Lahore Development Plan and social welfare were discussed during the meeting.
The CM said public

welfare required joint efforts at local level, adding that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) was a public party and believed in resolving public problems in a democratic manner.

The CM said the Lahore Development Plan included construction of water supply and drainage system, connecting roads and paved streets, Installation of street lights and

maintenance of parks.
She highlighted the need to complete this project at the earliest besides undertaking new projects to ensure welfare of citizens. PML-N MNA Malik Afzal Khokhar appreciated the special interest and vision of Chief Minister Maryam



Professor SBBWUP Dr. Hamida Bibi during a conference on Enhancing Regional Connectivity for the Betterment of the Shared Future of Mankind at SBBWU.

Sub-Cabinet committee reviews law & order, **Eid security measures**

LAHORE (APP): The seventh session of the Sub-Cabinet Committee on Law and Order was held in the Department of Interior under the chairmanship of Provincial Health Minister and Chairman of the Committee Khawaja Salman Rafique here, on

Provincial Minister of Industry and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain and Provincial Minister of Transport Bilal Akbar Khan participated as committee members.

Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Salman in various districts.

Rafique conducted a detailed review of the law and order situation across the province, security arrangements for Eid-ul-Adha, and the release of prisoners on parole, during the meeting, whereas the concerned officers also gave a briefing.Khawaja Salman Rafique, while expressing his views, said that extraordinary security arrangements would be

During the meeting, Deputy Commissioners were approved to appoint Price Control Magistrates

ensured for Eid-ul-Adha.

Deputy Commissioner directs to remove illegal cattle market

Hyderabad Zain-ul-Abideen Memon took notice of a report circulating on social media regarding the establishment of an illegal cattle market near the Comprehensive School in Latifabad Unit No. 10.

He directed the concerned assistant commissioner to restore the traffic flow by removing the said to the public.

HYDERABAD (APP): cattle market, upon which Deputy Commissioner assistant commissioner Latifabad Saud Baloch took action and immediately cleared the said unauthorized cattle market.

The Deputy Commis-Rawalpindi, and the E-Filing & Office sioner also directed all as-Filing sistant commissioners of Automation System (Ethe district to ensure that FOAS). no illegal cattle markets are established in their respecthe occasion emphasized tive areas and to strive to the value of such courses prevent any inconvenience for the government

visit Iranian Consulate LAHORE (APP): Former Pakistan during this Prime Minister Chaudhry

Shujaat Hussain and Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain visited the Iranian Consulate, here on Tuesday. offered They

condolences to Iranian Consul General Mehran Movahedfar for the tragic helicopter accident that claimed lives of the Iranian President and his companians, and also offered prayers for the departed souls. Iranian Consul Mehran

General Movahedfar expressed gratitude, stating, "You have come to your own home. We deeply appreciate your sympathy. shown by the people of

difficult time will never be forgotten.'

Page

He mentioned that both nations are committed to enhancing bilateral relations. During the Iranian President's visit to Pakistan, new chapters were opened in relationship between two countries. with a decision to increase trade volume to US \$ 10

Consul General Movahedfar noted that meat imports from Pakistan to Iran are increasing. He thanked Chaudhry Shafay Hussain for his personal interest in resolving the PAMCO issue and hoped that he would continue to The love and support assist until the payment matters are fully settled



Minister for School Education Department addressing a seminar.

Minister for expanding e-learning 'POHA' program

South Korea resumes

loudspeaker broadcasts

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Provincial

Minister for Education Faisal Khan Tarakai has lauded the Elementary and Secondary Education Foundation's e-learning programme-"POHA", directing the officials concerned to expand it to all districts of the Не

Home Learning Alternative (POHA)programme had been made in line with requirements of the modern successfully meeting the age and yielding concrete

meeting of the Elementary and Secondary Education Foundation, the minister directed the Foundation's officials to expand this program to all districts and introduce further reforms in the system to provide more facilities to students.

He said that program said that had fully digitized the Participatory Online and attendance of students and teachers, online classes, and the entire requirements of the modern age.

International News

UNSC adopts **US-drafted** resolution on Gaza ceasefire

Monitoring Desk

UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations Security Council on Monday adopted a US-drafted resolution supporting a ceasefire plan in Gaza, as Washington leads an intense diplomatic campaign to push Hamas to accept the

The text — passed with 14 votes in favour and Russia abstaining — "welcomes" the truce and hostage release proposal announced on May 31 by President Joe Biden, and urges "parties to fully implement its terms without delay and without condition." The resolution says Israel has accepted the truce plan, and "calls upon Hamas to also accept it".

Hamas in a statement, referring to its demands that include a permanent ceasefire in Gaza and a complete withdrawal of Istory said it "welcomes the manitarian assistance at

Security Council resolution .. (and) would like to reaffirm its readiness to cooperate with the brother mediators to enter into indirect negotiations regarding the implementation of these principles"

The United States, a staunch ally of Israel, has been widely criticised for having blocked several previous UN draft resolutions calling for a ceasefire in Gaza. But Biden late last month launched a new US effort to secure a truce and hostage release.

Today, we voted for peace," US ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield said after the UN session. The first phase of the truce would see an "immediate, full and complete ceasefire," the prisoners exchange, and the "withdrawal of Israeli forces from the populated areas in Gaza". This would also allow the "safe and efraeli forces from the terri- fective distribution of hu-

scale throughout the Gaza Strip to all Palestinian civilians who need it".

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken earlier held talks with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi on Monday. His visit comes after

US President Joe Biden on May 31 outlined a threephase ceasefire proposal from Israel that envisions a permanent end to hostilities, the release of Israeli and Palestinian prisoners. and the reconstruction of Gaza. US officials have considered negotiating a unilateral deal with Hamas to release five American prisoners held in Gaza if ceasefire talks involving Israel fail, NBC News reported on Monday.

It was not clear what the United States might offer Hamas in exchange, according to the report, which cited two current and two former US officials.

US Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield votes during

a UN Security Council meeting on the situation in the Middle East at UN headquarters in New York.

Gaza's hospitals overwhelmed by injured from Israel's military aggression

Monitoring Desk DEIR BALAH: Hazem Farjallah wails as he lies in the Gaza hospital corridor, his head bandaged and his aunt by his side, days after he was injured by Israeli bombardment and with little prospect of adequate medical care.

Hazem, 10, has not spoken since he was injured in Thursday's strike on a UN school being used as a shelter and the shrapnel wounds are visible on his back, chest and head.

"He's been lying on the ground for days. He's supposed to be in the intensive care unit. There are

no mattresses," said his aunt, Umm Nasser in a video obtained by Reuters. Hazem is now in a bed but had to manage on the floor until Monday.

His plight shows the dire condition of Gaza's damaged, under equipped and understaffed hospitals eight months into Israel's military campaign. The collapse in Gaza's health system in the face of massive Israeli bombardment has complicated a host of other unfolding disasters, from the hunger crisis to spreading disease. It has left those with chronic conditions un-

able to access basic care. But

Experts blame air pollution for 135m premature deaths defence

Monitoring Desk

SINGAPORE: Pollution from man-made emissions and other sources like wildfires have been linked to around 135 million premature deaths worldwide between 1980 and 2020, a Singapore university said on Mon-

Weather phenomena like El Nino and the Indian Ocean Dipole worsened the effects of these pollutants by intensifying their concentration in Nanyang Technological University (NTU) said, unveiling the results of a study led by its researchers.

The tiny particles called particulate matter 2.5, or "PM 2.5", are harmful to human health when inhaled because they are small enough to enter the bloodstream. They come from vehicle and industrial emissions as well as natural sources like fires and

UN denounces politicisation of migration in EU polls

Monitoring Desk GENEVA: The United Nations' refugees chief on Monday denounced the politicisation of migration in European elections. He warned that demonising refugees, will only make the issue more difficult, to deal

Filippo Grandi told reporters that his 'main' concern after the weekend's European Parliament elections, was that "the refugee-migration theme has become so politicised in these elections". The European elections handed significant gains to 'far-right parties', across much of the continent.

BJP keeps foreign affairs, home, finance,

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHÏ: Prime

Minister Narendra Modi on Monday retained Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh Nirmala Sitharaman and S Jaishankar in charge of the four high-profile ministries - Home, Defence, Finance and External Affairs — respectively in his new government. The four ministers in charge of these portfolios make up the crucial Cabinet Committee on Security headed by the prime minister.

balloons carrying trash into the South. The decision to resume the broadcasts, as a form of psychological warfare, was made after North

Korea began launching on Satu-rday about 330 balloons with trash attached, with about 80 of them dropping over the border, South Korea's military said. 'The measures we will

Monitoring Desk

EOUL: South Korea re-

sumed loudspeaker broad-

casts directed at North Ko-

rea on Sunday, its military

said, following through on

warning demanding

Pyongyang stop sending

take may be unbearable for the North Korean regime attached to balloons. It gave but they will send a mes- no other details

after North's balloons sage of hope and light to the North's troops and its people," South Korea's National Security Council said S. Korea had warned the North it would take retaliatory measures which cou-ld include propaganda broadcasts from huge loudspeak-

ers set up at the border. The broadcasts were made on Sunday afternoon and whether more will follow depends on how North Korea responds, South Korea's military said. The South Korean military said that more balloons had been launched by the North and could fly into the South, warning residents to not touch any objects they find

Japan's economy is shrinking, although slightly less than previously thought

Monitoring Desk TOKYO: The Japanese economy shrank at an annual rate of 1.8% in the first quarter of this year, slightly better than the initial estimate at a 2.0% contraction, according to revised government data Monday.

The revision was due to private sector investments, at minus 0.4%, up from the previous minus 0.5%. Seasonally adjusted real gross domestic product, or GDP, a measure of the value of a nation's products and services, remained in negative territory, as exports and consumption declined from the previous quarter. Quarter-to-quarter, the economy slipped 0.5% in the January-March period, according to the Cabinet Office, unchanged from

The annual rate measures what would have happened if the quarterly rate lasted a year.

last month's results.

Wage growth has been slow, and prices on imports have risen amid a decline in the Japanese yen against the U.S. dollar. The dollar is trading at nearly 157 yen lately, up from about 140 yen a year ago.

tourism booming. But it makes imports more expensive, a sore point for a nation that imports almost all its energy. Sluggish consumer spending has also been a drag on the economy. Private consumption accounts for half of Japanese economic activity.

Another negative is the ongoing scandal involving improper vehicle model tests at several major automakers, including Toyota Motor Corp., which form the pillars of Japan's brand power. Production was halted on some models. Government officials raided the Tokyo headquarters of Honda Motor Co. Monday. Japanese media reports said a raid was coming soon on Mazda Motor Corp. Toyota and Suzuki Motor Corp. have

already been raided.

Last week, Toyota Chairman Akio Toyoda apologized for the wideranging fraudulent testing involving the use of inadequate or outdated data in collision tests, incorrect testing of airbag inflation, rear-seat damage in crashes

and engine power.

Armed conflicts in 2023 highest since end of WWII: study

Monitoring Desk OSLO: More armed conflicts took place worldwide in 2023 than any other year since the end of the Second World War, according to a Norwegian study published on Monday. Last year saw 59

conflicts of which 28 were in Africa, the the Peace Research Institute of Oslo (PRIO) showed. But the number of countries which experienced conflicts declined from 39 in 2022 to 34. The number of deaths

in combat also halved to

around 122,000 over the

previous year, according to

data collected by Sweden's Uppsala University from NGOs and international organisations. That number remained nonetheless the third highest since 1989, against the

backdrop of the war in

Ukraine and the conflict

between Israel and the Palestinian Hamas movement. "Violence in the world is at an all-time high since the end of the Cold War," said Siri Aas Rustad, PRIO researcher and the main author of the report covering trends during the period 1946-2023. "The figures suggest

that the conflict landscape has become increasingly complex, with more conflict actors operating within the same country. she explained. According to PRÎO, the increase in the number of conflicts can be partially attributed to the militant Islamic State group spreading across Asia, Africa and the Middle East, and the involvement of a growing number of non-state actors such as the Al Oaedaaffiliated Group to Support Islam and Muslims

Gunmen ambush Manipur CM's security team **Monitoring Desk**

GUWAHATI: Armed men ambushed a convoy carrying the security team of the chief minister of India's troubled northeastern state of Manipur on Monday, wounding two people, but the leader was not with them at the time, officials

Fighting between Manipur's majority Meitei and minority Kuki communities over sharing economic benefits and quotas given to the latter has killed at least 220 people and displaced 60,000 in the last year, with sporadic clashes continuing.

Chief Minister N Biren Singh was due to visit the state's Jiribam region on Tuesday, after violence flared there following the discovery of the body of a 59-year-old Meitei man last week. The security team attacked on Monday was going to make "arrangements and checks" for his visit, officials said.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding load shedding, the anti-power theft campaign and reforms in the power sector.

PM for reduction in load-shedding amid soaring summer temperatures

Minister

Shehbaz Muhammad Sharif on Tuesday directed for reduction of power load-shedding in the country in view of the rising temperatures during the summer season.

He also directed for functioning of an effective and active system in the power distribution companies for the facilitation of consumers, regarding registration of timely complaints in case of no supply of

The prime minister chaired a meeting regarding load- shedding, the antipower theft campaign and reforms in the power sec-

The meeting was attended by Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, Minister for Energy Awais Leghari, Minister for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik, PM's Coordinator Rana Ahsan Afzal and senior officials of the relevant ministries, the PM sure exemplary punishment gard was given

a press release.

The prime minister advised that purchase of new transformers should be in line with the international standards, besides seeking benefits from the latest adopted present-day system at the global level for bringing reforms in the energy sector.

He also directed the provincial governments to fully support the antipower theft drive and en-

Office Media Wing said in to those involved in power

The prime minister also strictly directed to end

overbilling in the country. During the meeting, the prime minister was apprised that till May 30, 134 cases had been registered and a total of 90 employees were arrested.

A briefing over the reorganization of National Transmission and Dispatch Company and the progress achieved so far in that re-

CPEC Phase 2 fueling Pakistan's economic boom: Ahsan Iqbal

Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, said on Tuesday that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent visit to China was a significant step in bolstering Pakistan and China's longstanding friendship and strategic alliance.

Talking to a private news channel, he said that major agreements were reached to expedite the second phase of CPEC, with a focus on job creation, innovation, green energy, and inclusive regional develop-

"CPEC was now in its second phase, focusing on industrialization and the establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) like the Allama Iqbal Industrial City in Faisalabad," he said.

Ahsan Iqbal said that the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was piv-

National Highway Authority (NHA) has made re-

markable strides in address-

ing complex issues related to

Peshawar Northern Bypass

project. These accomplish-

ments represent significant

progress in enhancing the

region's infrastructure, re-

ducing traffic congestion,

and promoting economic

growth, said a press release

lenges resolved was the is-

sue of land possession in

Package-2 and 3A.
NHA effectively coor-

dinated with district govern-

ment officials to address

these issues, facilitating

smoother project execution.

This coordination ensured that

land in Mouza Charpariza,

Karniza, Daag, Khappa, and Patwar Payan under Pack-

age-2 was fully awarded and

handed over to the contrac-

tor. imilarly, land in Mouza

Badezai for Package-3A was

awarded and handed over in

One of the major chal-

issued here Tuesday.

ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner to Pa-

kistan, Ms. Jane Marriot calling on Chairman Sen-

ate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani at Parliament House.

NHA resolves issues relating

Peshawar Northern

Bypass project

ISLAMABAD (APP): August 2023, to achieve of the past three years, complete land possession

otal for Pakistan's economic ity, which has helped allevidevelopment.

In this phase, five new corridors were announced. including the Corridor of Growth, Livelihood, Innovation, Green Corridor, and a Regional Cooperation Open Corridor to work on, he added

The 5Es framework will be implemented, including Export, Energy, Equity, E-Pakistan, and environment, aiming at growth, livelihood, innovation, green development, and regional cooperation, he said

He said that creating safe investment environments and a dependable energy supply was important to draw in foreign investors and set Pakistan up for an industrial revolution with China's help

nificant benefits of the CPEC and said that one of the most notable achievements is the installation of 8000 megawatts of electric-

complete land possession

for the contractor. NHA

also successfully addressed

the stoppage of work on

two bridges in Package-3A.

Construction had been

halted since 2021 due to lo-

cal land disputes and court

stay orders, but these issues

have now been resolved, al-

lowing the bridges' construc-

tion to be completed. Addi-

tionally, the contract agree-

ment for Package-3B was

The District Govern-

2.4km of land out of the awarded

3.6km on December 23, 2023,

and work commenced shortly

thereafter. Moreover, addi-

tional land in district

Khyber was handed over on

June 8 and 9, 2024, to en-

suring the project could pro-

land in Package-3B.

ate the load-shedding issue in Pakistan.

Moreover, CPEC has contributed to the creation of over 230 thousand jobs and has facilitated significant progress in infrastructure, connectivity, and socio-economic projects across Pakistan.

He emphasized China's cooperation with Pakistan across various sectors, including mining, IT, energy,

government was strongly emphasizing investments on a business-to-business basis to foster closer collaboration between Pakistani and Chinese enterprises. He further said that to enhance bilateral trade and investment opportunities, more than 150 leading businessmen from Pakistan toured with us and participated in one-on-one meetings with over 250 business companies in China.

Eliminating child labour key to ensure bright future of children: NA speaker

ISLAMABAD (APP): eaker of National Assemly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Tuesday said that eliminating child labour is a key to sure the bright future of

"Children are the future of this country and no one can be allowed to deprive them of their potential, dignity and rights. Parliament of Pakistan is committed to eradicate child labour "the speaker said in a message 'World Day Against Child Labour'

The Speaker said that child labour is a serious social challenge and it is hurting the physical, mental and emotional growth of millions of children globally, who are unfortunately involved in the child labour.

He further, emphasized the need for enhanced investment in education, social protection programs, and child protective services said a news release.

Independent Report

to the details, the Inspec-

tor General of Police (ÎGP)

Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi chaired

a high-level meeting at the

Central Police Office

tended by DIG Headquar-

ters Syed Mustafa Tanveer,

AIG General and other po-

During the meeting, the IGP Islamabad re-

viewed the performance of

Unit". He said that the first pability.

lice officers

The meeting was at-

Islamabad.

SLAMABAD: According

IGP Islamabad reviewed

performance of "Change

Management Unit"

about it.

He also stressed the importance of raising awareness about the issue and engaging civil society, parents, children, and the larger public to eliminate child labour along with all its forms once and for all. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq com-

stakeholders working tirelessly to combat child labour and to promote children's rights. He urged all stakehold-

mended the efforts of all

ers to continue their efforts and work in consensus to eradicate child labour.

On this occasion, Deputy Speaker National Assembly Syed Mir Ghulam Mustafa Shah said that child labour is a serious social issue that needs to be addressed urgently.

He emphasized that children should be have an access to quality education and a safe environment, rather than being forced into forced labour.

objective of the "Change

Management Unit" is to

equip the Islamabad Police

with high-tech technology

and also provide awareness

the officers should improve

the quality of ongoing

projects along with setting

new projects

He further said that, all

He empathized that

the Islamabad Police will be

equipped with modern

technology to further en-

details of under presidential ordinance from barring working

The case came up for hearing before single bench of IHC led by Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri Tues-

in what list.

The court was told Zartaj Gul name is placed

The state counsel told the court two FIRs are registered against Zartaj Gul and due to these FIRs her

record be filed. The court while di-recting to file record ad-

journed the hearing of the case after Eid holidays.

In an operation, the

During the raid, officials tested 15,000 liters of



ISLAMABAD (Online):

Islamabad High Court

(IHC) has barred Election

Tribunal (ET) constituted

under presidential ordi-

indication to initiate con-

tempt of court proceedings

against the petitioners di-

rected Anjum Ageel Khan

to appear before it in per-

Chief Justice (CJ)

sons on next hearing.

The court while giving

nance from working.

cases against Zartaj Gul

ISLAMABAD (Online): ISLAMABAD (OHING).
Islamabad High Court (IHC) has sought details of cases registered against PTI leader Zartaj Gul on her petition seeking removal of her name from Exit Control List (ECL) besides adjourning further hearing after Eid

The court inquired name of Zartaj Gul is placed

name was placed in PCL. The court remarked that if bail has been ac-

IFA destroys **2000 liter** contaminated milk in G-11

ISLAMABAD (APP) The Islamabad Food Authority (IFA) on Tuesday launched a major crack-down in the G-11 area of the Federal Capital, targeting the sale of low quality

IFA destroyed 2000 liter contaminated milk being sold to the people of the

Talking to APP Deputy Director Operations (DDO) of IFA, Dr Tahira Saddique said that the teams inspected various vehicles and shops to ensure compliance with health standards.

milk. Disturbingly, 2,000 liters were found contaminated and substandard. The IFA team also imposed fine to the milk selling shops.

have leveled allegation ordinance here Tuesday.

IHC while expressing displeasure over change of tribunal remarked why ET was changed. Election Commission (EC) has to be accountable. Fear God. You

proved wrong then he will go to jail and will become disqualified for five years. He leveled allegations and EC issued order. He gave these remarks during hearing of PTI petition filed against change of tribunal by EC and election amendment

against judge of high court

that judge is involved in

nepotism. He cares for non

for the sake of his own in-

terest. EC transferred the

cases on this allegation. I

will issue contempt of court

notice for using language

against the judge of high

court. If the allegations lev-

eled against the judge are

World Bank approves additional \$1 billion for **Dasu Hydropower Project**

ISLAMABAD (APP): In power sectors. what can be termed a significant development for much-needed financing to generate clean, green, and economically affordable hydel electricity in Pakistan, the World Bank has approved additional financing to the tune of \$ 1 billion for Dasu Hydropower Project, being constructed by WAPDA on River Indus.

This is the single largest financial facility provided by the World Bank for a project in Pakistan, said a press release issued on Tuesday.

This facility comprises concessional financing through the World Bank arms of IDA and IBRD.

Approval to this effect was accorded by the World Bank in its meeting. This additional financing by the World Bank reflects the trust the Bank reposes in WAPDA's financial strength and professional expertise for the successful implementation of mega projects in the Water and Hydro-

It is important to note that the World Bank is already providing financial support of US\$ 588 million and a partial credit guarantee of US\$ 460 million for the construction of the

Dasu Hydropower Project. At present, WAPDA is constructing eight mega projects worth US\$ 26 billion to add 9.7 million feet (MAF) to the water storage and double its hydel generation capacity from 9,500 to 20,000 megawatt (MW)

during the next five years. WAPDA has devised an innovative financial strategy for the construction of these projects with less reliance on the national exchequer by exploiting its own financial strength. Dasu is one of these under-construction

projects. The 4320 MW-Dasu Hydropower Project is being constructed on the River Indus, upstream of Dasu Town in the Upper Kohistan District of Pakhtunkhwa Province.



rificial goats for walking at a road in the Federal Capital.

DIG HQs reviewed implementation of tasks assigned to officers Independent Report the renewal of police

ISLAMABAD: The Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Headquarters Syed Mustafa Tanveer chaired an important meeting at the Central Police Office.

The meeting was attended by the DIG Security Division, all AIGs and SSPs.

During the meet-ing, the DIG Headquarters reviewed the implementation of the orders issued by Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad ters can be complete syed Ali Nasir Rizvi for in a timely manner.

units. He also reviewed the steps taken to facilitate the general public and the tasks assigned to the officers. Moreover, DIG

Headquarters directed the senior police officers to ensure timely implementation of the orders issued by the IGP Islamabad. He said that "task

management software' has also been developed to achieve all goals so that all matters can be completed

and others. He further said that the

He highlighted the sig-

Gillani, Jane Marriott discuss issues of mutual interest

ISLAMABAD (APP) Senate Chairman Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani and British High Commissioner Jane Marriott on Tuesday discussed issues of mutual interest, including bilateral relations, trade, investment, and parliamentary cooperation. The Senate chairman, during the meeting, said Pakistan and the United Kingdom had been enjoying longstanding cordial relations, and expressed gratitude for Britain's support during challenging times and its various welfare initiatives, according to a news release. He highlighted the importance of increasing Pak-UK partnership in the fields of health, education,

and technology. As regards the parliamentary cooperation, Gillani observed that collaboration at international fora like IPU and CPA reflected that both countries attached high importance to their mutual relations.

revived after the District He also highlighted the Government assured land significance of people-toprovision, overcoming legal people contacts and called and administrative hurdles. for augmenting ties in edu-Further progress incational and cultural excluded the handing over of changes. He also underscored the need for enhanced exchanges at parliament Peshawar transferred

> The British High Commissioner acknowledged the significant role of the Pakistani diaspora in England in cementing relations between the two countries.

mentary level.

Punjab bans burning of animal heads, offal at public places

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a bid to ensure public safety and maintain cleanliness during Eid-ul-Azha celebrations, the Punjab government has imposed Section 144 across the province, prohibiting the burning of animal heads and trotters at public places. A spokesperson from the provincial Home Department told PTV that the directive also extends to the disposal of sacrificial animal offal, with strict prohibitions against dumping them in manholes, drainage

He said the measures aim to prevent environmental hazards and promote hygienic practices during the festive period.

systems, or canals.

Furthermore, the spokesperson stated that the government has forbidden banned organizations from collecting sacrificial animal hides, as part of efforts to regulate the distribution and utilization of animal by-products.

To a query, he said the Punjab Home Department has established a dedicated control room tasked with monitoring compliance across the province.

IIUI President

President International Is-

of the university. The event was attended by key IIUI officials including Vice President Administration & Finance/ Academics, Prof. Dr. Abdul Raheman, Vice President Research and Enterprise, Prof. Dr. Ahmed Shuja Syed, Director Business Incubation Centre, Engr. Ahsan Mirza, Incharge Female Campus, Dr. Summiya Chughtai, and Director ORIC, Prof. Dr.

During the inaugura-tion, the IIUI President em-

ization ecosystem within the organization.

inaugurates STBS ISLAMABAD (APP): Muhammad Amir.

the "Change Management hance its efficiency and ca-

lamic University Islamabad (IIUI) Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi on Tuesday inaugurated the Science Technology & Business Space (STBS) at the new campus

phasized the role of the STBS as a bridge between academia and industry, facilitating interaction among faculty, researchers, and students on various technological and non-technological projects. He highlighted the importance of universities understanding their roles and aligning with modern trends. He stated that the university was focusing on innovation, industryacademia linkage, and societal service through the promotion of digitization, innovation and commercial-

Protection of life and property top priority

Let's work together for a safer Peshawar. CCPO



Independent Report

PESHAWAR: Capital City Police organized an open court (kachehri) at Mathra Police Station, led by SP Muhammad Javed Ismail, as part of a public outreach campaign. The event aimed to strengthen police-public relations and address community concerns. SP Muhammad Javed Ismail assured the public that protection of life and property is their top priority, and all available resources are being utilized to achieve this goal. He highlighted successful operations against criminals, establishment of checkpoints and barriers, and increased patrols and eagle squads to maintain peace.

The police are committed to curbing crime and narcotics trade, especially ice. The public's support is crucial in this effort. Let's work together for a safer Peshawar.

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah, Editor: Syed Farooq Shah, Editor: Syed Rizwan Shah, Printed by: Rohani Art Press, Mohammadi Town, Sohan, Islamabad and Published from H. No. 426, Street No. 20, Ghori Town Phase 4/A Islamabad Ph: 051-2158688, 2158997, 0331-8383955 Email: dailyindisb@gmail.com

ceed without further delay. ISLAMABAD: A view of vehicles parked on a greenbelt

at Agha Khan Road due to wrong parked along the road. Traffic Warden lifted the wrongly parked vehicles and put on greenbelt as a punishment.

IBCC launches it's

annual report 2023 ISLAMABAD (APP): The Inter Boards Coordination Commission (IBCC) has released its 2023 annual report, highlighting the key activities, and achieve-

The report which was launched by Secretary IBCC Dr Ghulam Ali Mallah, provides a comprehensive overview of the Commission's efforts in coordinating and facilitating in the development of policies in maintaining uniform standards, and integration of technology.

The report highlights the enactment of IBCC, its re-constitution and restructure and the impact of enactment. The administra-

tive reforms made to improve performance and technology based improvements are also underscored it added. The examination re-

throughout year, analysis of examination results from national level to each board level is also given in this However, the report

qualifications. A roundup of co-curricular activities and events organized by IBCC is comprehensively given in this

forms recommended

also includes statistics about attestation and equivalence applications processed by IBCC and details of newly recognized

annual report